

**NEWS** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Author Talks Celebrate Hip-Hop Music and the Harlem Renaissance for Black History Month

Hartford, Connecticut (February 2, 2011) Hartford Public Library will host two author talks by Dr. Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar, a history professor at the University of Connecticut, as part of the Library's Black History Month celebration. On Thursday, February 17, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., he will discuss and sign his book, "Hip-Hop Revolution: the Culture and Politics of Rap" at the Albany Branch, 1250 Albany Avenue. On Thursday, February 24, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., Dr. Ogbar will be at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street, to discuss and sign his most recent book "Harlem Renaissance Revisited: Politics, Arts, Letters," which he edited.

"Hip-Hop Revolution" is an account of the social, cultural, and political influences of hip-hop past and present, in which Dr. Ogbar provides a historical context for the art. Beginning with the emergence of popular culture in the United States and the minstrel show in the antebellum era, he works through the emergence of jazz, rock and roll, and blaxploitation movies in the 1970s, to the development of hip-hop in the mid-1970s New York City. Dr. Ogbar comments, "My point is to explore the durability of race as a touchstone for popular entertainment, particularly music. I show how hip-hop culture is on the cutting-edge of so much that matters in contemporary American popular culture."

"Insight and perspective on the intriguing personalities of the Harlem Renaissance, such as Jessie Fauset, Paul Robeson, and Zora Neale Hurston, will be the focus of my second talk," said Dr. Ogbar. "Harlem Renaissance Revisited: Politics, Arts, Letters" brings together some of the most innovative and fascinating explorations of the major ideas, people and events of the era.

Both events are free and open to the public. If special accommodations to participate in these events are required, please contact Access Assistance at 860-695-6284 or TTY 860-722-6890, two weeks prior to the workshops.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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### **About Hartford Public Library**

*The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 850,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of the Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration.*